

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-7 (cancelled).

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8 (currently amended): A device for slicing a spike signal, the device comprising:

a limiter for receiving the spike signal and for limiting the spike signal to be within  
a voltage range to generate a first output signal;

10 a peak hold circuit electrically connected to the limiter for receiving the first output  
signal and for holding the positive peak voltages of the first output signal to  
generate a second output signal;

a low-pass filter electrically connected to the peak hold circuit for receiving the  
second output signal and for filtering the ~~first~~ second output signal to generate a  
slice level signal;

15 a bias circuit for raising a voltage level of the slice signal to produce a biased sliced  
signal ~~a signal inputted into the bias circuit~~; and

a comparator electrically connected to the ~~low-pass filter~~ bias circuit, the  
comparator for comparing the spike signal with the biased slice level signal to  
slice the spike signal.

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9 (currently amended): The device of claim 8 wherein the voltage range ~~with~~ has an upper  
limit less than the maximum voltage of the spike signal.

10-20 (cancelled).

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21 (new): A device for slicing a spike signal, the device comprising:

a bias circuit for raising a voltage level of the spike signal and generating a biased

spike signal;  
a limiter for receiving the biased spike signal and for limiting the biased spike signal  
to be within a voltage range to generate a first output signal;  
a peak hold circuit electrically connected to the limiter for receiving the first output  
5 signal and for holding the positive peak voltages of the first output signal to  
generate a second output signal;  
a low-pass filter electrically connected to the peak hold circuit for receiving the  
second output signal and for filtering the second output signal to generate a slice  
level signal; and  
10 a comparator electrically connected to the low-pass filter, the comparator for  
comparing the spike signal with the slice level signal to slice the spike signal.

22 (new): The device of claim 21 wherein the voltage range has an upper limit less than  
the maximum voltage of the spike signal.

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23 (new): A device for slicing a spike signal, the device comprising:  
a limiter for receiving the spike signal and for limiting the spike signal to be within  
a voltage range to generate a first output signal;  
a bias circuit for raising a voltage level of the first output signal for generating a  
20 biased first output signal;  
a peak hold circuit electrically connected to the bias circuit for receiving the biased  
first output signal and for holding the positive peak voltages of the biased first  
output signal to generate a second output signal;  
a low-pass filter electrically connected to the peak hold circuit for receiving the  
25 second output signal and for filtering the second output signal to generate a slice  
level signal; and  
a comparator electrically connected to the low-pass filter, the comparator for  
comparing the spike signal with the slice level signal to slice the spike signal.

24 (new): The device of claim 23 wherein the voltage range has an upper limit less than the maximum voltage of the spike signal.

- 5     25 (new): A device for slicing a spike signal, the device comprising:
- a limiter for receiving the spike signal and for limiting the spike signal to be within a voltage range to generate a first output signal;
  - a peak hold circuit electrically connected to the limiter for receiving the first output signal and for holding the positive peak voltages of the first output signal to
  - 10     generate a second output signal;
  - a bias circuit for raising a voltage level of the second output signal to generate a biased second output signal;
  - a low-pass filter electrically connected to the bias circuit for receiving the biased second output signal and for filtering the biased second output signal to generate
  - 15     a slice level signal; and
  - a comparator electrically connected to the low-pass filter, the comparator for comparing the spike signal with the slice level signal to slice the spike signal.

20     26 (new): The device of claim 25 wherein the voltage range has an upper limit less than the maximum voltage of the spike signal.